

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants submit herewith a substitute specification based on a certified English translation of the original German application.

Newly-added Claims 51-113 are supported by the specification and the original Claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 51-113 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a carrier having a velourlike, finely fibrous topside, wherein the carrier is provided with a dressing which has a grain texture having grain peaks and grain valleys on its face side,

wherein the dressing comprises a consolidated polymeric dispersion and is produced separately on a substrate having a textured surface corresponding to the grain texture,

wherein the substrate is bonded to the carrier via a single thin bonding layer formed from a consolidated, polyurethane-containing polymeric dispersion and having been applied to the topside of the carrier,

wherein the dressing has capillaries which extend through its entire thickness, and

wherein the dressing has substantially the same thickness in the region of the grain peaks and in the region of the grain valleys.

See Claim 51.

The rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Proctor (U.S. patent No. 2,994,617) is respectfully traversed. Proctor fails to disclose the claimed carrier.

One important feature of the claimed carrier is that the dressing has capillaries which extend through its entire thickness, and the dressing has substantially the same thickness in the region of the grain peaks and in the region of the grain valleys.

Proctor fails to disclose this feature. The reference is certainly silent about such a feature. In addition, the finish is perforated and stretched to form pores (see stages D and E in the Figure). In this case, the thickness would not be the same at the tips and valleys.

For this reason alone, the claims are patentable over Proctor.

In view of the foregoing, Proctor fails to disclose the claimed carrier. Accordingly, the subject matter of the pending claims is not anticipated by Proctor et al. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

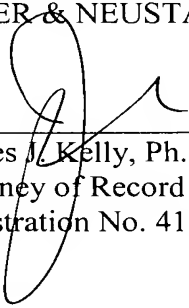
The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The re-written claims are believed to address the issues raised in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, the Claims are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

James J. Kelly, Ph.D.  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 41,504

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)